

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine, comprising a rocker arm ~~(18A, 18B)~~ having a valve abutment ~~(15)~~ at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve ~~(6)~~ and a cam abutment ~~(17)~~ at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~, and a pair of link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body ~~(1)~~ for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm ~~(18A, 18B)~~ for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ being swingably supported on said engine body ~~(1)~~ for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ , and wherein said rocker arm is formed to be gradually thicker from the valve abutment at the one end toward the cam abutment at the other end.

2. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ are connected at the other ends in a row and relatively turnably to the other end of said rocker arm ~~(18A, 18B)~~ ~~provided at one end thereof with said valve abutment (15).~~

3. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one ~~(19A, 19B)~~ of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ closer to said valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ is swingably supported at one end thereof on the engine body ~~(1)~~ in a fixed position, and one ~~(20A, 20B)~~ of said

link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ farther from said valve-operating cam (16) is swingably supported at one end thereof movable on the engine body (1).

4. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the roller (17) as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube (21) mounted on said rocker arm (18A, 18B) and having an axis parallel to said rotational axis for said valve-operating cam (16), and one ~~(19A, 19B)~~ of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ is connected at the other end to said support tube (21).

5. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the other ~~(20A)~~ of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~ is connected at the other end to said rocker arm (18A) above the roller (17) through a connecting shaft (24) parallel to the roller (17), and the support tube (21) and the connecting shaft (24) are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam (16) to said rocker arm (18A).

6. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein the roller (17) as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube (21) mounted on said rocker arm ~~(18A, 18B)~~ and having an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam (16), and one ~~(19A, 19B)~~ of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ closer to said valve-operating cam (16) is connected at the other end to said support tube (21).

7. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one ~~(20A)~~ of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~ farther from said valve-operating cam (16) is connected at the other end to said rocker arm

~~(18A)~~ above the roller ~~(17)~~ through a connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ parallel to the roller ~~(17)~~, and the support tube ~~(21)~~ and the connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ to said rocker arm ~~(18A)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the other ~~(20B)~~ of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ is connected at the other end to said rocker arm ~~(18B)~~ below said roller ~~(17)~~ through a connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ parallel to said roller ~~(17)~~, and the support tube ~~(21)~~ and the connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ to said rocker arm ~~(18A)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one ~~(20B)~~ of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ farther from said valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ is connected at the other end to said rocker arm ~~(18B)~~ ~~above~~ below said roller ~~(17)~~ through a connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ parallel to said roller ~~(17)~~, and the support tube ~~(21)~~ and the connecting shaft ~~(24)~~ are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ to said rocker arm ~~(18B)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A; 19B and 20B)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 7, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 8, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve ~~(6)~~ with respect to the other ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein one ends of said link arms ~~(19B and 20B)~~ are

disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve (6) with respect to the other ends of said link arms (19B and 20B).